

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of specifying to a voice recognition system a set of valid utterances for interpreting voice-based queries for items within a domain of items, the method comprising:

- 5 extracting phrases from at least some of the items within the domain;  
expanding each phrase into a set consisting of individual terms of the phrase and forward combinations of terms within the phrase, to thereby generate a set of utterances which includes both single-term and multiple-term utterances;  
incorporating at least some of the single-term and multiple-term  
10 utterances into the voice recognition grammar; and  
providing the voice recognition grammar to the voice recognition system.

2. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein extracting phrases comprises extracting titles of the items.

- 15 3. The method as defined in Claim 2, wherein extracting phrases further comprises dividing a title having more than a predefined number of terms into multiple phrases.

4. The method as defined in Claim 2, further comprising using the voice recognition grammar and the voice recognition system to interpret of voice-based query  
20 of a title search.

5. The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising extracting individual terms from at least some of the items, and incorporating at least some of the individual terms into the grammar.

- 25 6. The method as defined in Claim 1, wherein incorporating at least some of the single-term and multiple-term utterances into the voice recognition grammar comprises removing at least some of the utterances according to a set of heuristics.

7. The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising converting a number within a multiple-term utterance produced by said phrase expansion into a multiple-word counterpart.

8. The method as defined in Claim 1, further comprising expanding an acronym within a multiple-term utterance produced by said phrase expansion into a multiple-term counterpart.

9. A method of enabling an item to be located by a voice-based search query, the method comprising:

extracting a phrase from text of the item;

translating the phrase into a set of utterances consisting of (a) individual terms of the phrase, and (b) all ordered combinations of two or more consecutive terms of the phrase; and

storing at least some of the utterances of the set, including both single-term and multi-term utterances, within a voice recognition grammar used to interpret the voice-based search query.

10. The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein extracting a phrase comprises extracting the phrase from a title of the item.

11. The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein storing at least some of the utterances comprises filtering out at least one utterance according to a set of heuristics.

12. The method as defined in Claim 9, further comprising removing a duplicate phrase within the title prior to translation into the set of utterances.

13. The method as defined in Claim 9, further comprising converting a number within the set of utterances into a word counterpart.

14. The method as defined in Claim 9, further comprising expanding an acronym within the set of utterances.

15. The method as defined in Claim 9, wherein the phrase comprises at least three terms.

16. A system for conducting voice based searches within a domain of items, comprising:

a voice recognition systems that interprets voice search queries from users; and

a grammar which specifies to the voice recognition system valid utterances for interpreting the voice search queries, wherein the grammar comprises both single-term and multi-term utterances derived from the items

